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The Federal Communications Commission

Re: Docket # 07-57

Dear Committee Members:

This is to comment in support of the proposed merger of Sirius and XM satellite radio businesses (docket # 07-57).

For background, I am a recently retired Chief Financial Officer, having served in that capacity for over twenty years in the Health Care, Consumer Products and Defense industries. I have been a subscriber of Sirius since 2005.

Simply put, I find any and all arguments that the subject merger will not benefit consumers stunningly unconscionable. Anyone with a basic understanding of economics and business models knows such a combination will result in operational leverage and reductions in fixed cost and a more than doubling of top-line revenues, with no increase in rates to the consumer. With the satellite business fighting for market share among much stronger, entrenched competitors, why would they increase prices? In fact, Sirius indicated they would agree to caps on pricing.

Why should consumers continue to pay two fees and buy two sets of radios, as they do now, to enjoy both baseball and football (as one example)? The merger will provide comprehensive programming on one radio for, essentially, half the price. If this is not a benefit, I would welcome an explanation.

The competitive landscape now includes terrestrial radio (with the “HD” radio segment), IPODs, cellphones (to include video by the end of June), and other media elements. The satellite segment is clearly struggling. The proposed merger, I believe, is necessary for viability and continued investment in infrastructure and programming. There are sections of the country not adequately

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served by terrestrial channels, for which satellite offers the only comprehensive, reliable and quality service.

The relevant competition that the Committee should focus on is concentrated ownership in the terrestrial segment, which dwarfs the fledgling satellite business.

Please approve this merger without further delay. It is shocking that this clearly defined and relatively inconsequential issue will take many times longer to deliberate than the entire set of phone company issues years ago.

Sincerely,

David W. Merkle